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The Director of Central Intelligence  
Washington, D.C. 20505

*Chen*

National Intelligence Council

24 October 1986

NOTE FOR: Director of Central Intelligence

FROM: Chairman, National Intelligence Council

Sir --

We have had relatively "smooth sailing" during final coordination on this paper, as well as on the [redacted] These two NIEs are the only Estimates on the NFIB's agenda for Thursday, 30 October. The respective NIOs are checking with their agency counterparts on the possibility of a telephone vote. If the answer is "Yes" on both NIEs, we plan to go that way and would propose to cancel the 30 October NFIB unless otherwise directed.

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The next two NFIBs after that are scheduled for 6 and 13 November, only one topic each, M/H on an NIE [redacted] and an NIE [redacted] respectively. These may slip, but if they do not, they may also become candidates for telephone votes. The next full schedule is 20 November--currently seven topics on the agenda. One or more of these will no doubt slip, but given the likely high number remaining, and the importance and sensitivity of some of them (e.g. [redacted])

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[redacted], I feel that a meeting will be required on the 20th.

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In the meantime, progress on the Production Plan proceeds apace. It has been reworked once to reflect all the inputs we received from you, Bob Gates, the SRP and the NIOs, and the rest of the Community. This revision has been reviewed by the NIOs and will be further revised and distributed for comment to the SRP and the Community reps early next week. We'll redo one more time and have it to you and Bob for review the following week. The thrust of the changes is to eliminate duplicates and gaps, to reorient with an eye toward relevance, and to add more "new style" estimates, as appropriate, tying together factors across national and functional lines in the interest of a more comprehensive and comprehensible estimative story.

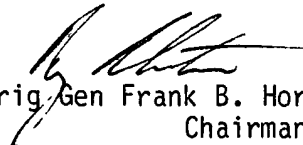
We anticipate a slightly longer list than before after all the adding, combining, and deleting is done--one that will come a little closer to making the best use of the evidence and the talents at hand to generate policy-relevant products. By spreading this list judiciously across our NIOs and a wider array of diverse drafters, and more evenly over the coming

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months, we hope to also allow more time to work and coordinate each of the Estimates (a common theme in agency comments to us), and more time to produce speculative and/or stimulative policy-oriented pieces on individual initiative for your use and consideration for further distribution.

V/R

  
Brig Gen Frank B. Horton III, USAF  
Chairman